

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, and 14-19, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 6, 11, and 13, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended): An imaging apparatus comprising:

an image capture unit ~~imaging means~~;

an encoding unit configured to encode ~~encoding means for encoding~~ a moving picture signal, ~~which has been~~ output by said image capture unit ~~imaging means~~, using intraframe encoding and interframe encoding, and to generate ~~generating~~ an encoded image signal comprising a plurality of picture groups each comprising n (where n represents an integer equal to or greater than 2) frames of an image signal including intraframe-encoded pictures obtained by the intraframe encoding and interframe-encoded pictures obtained by the interframe encoding;

a control panel configured to receive an instruction from a user to start a recording of the encoded images signal;

~~means for recording~~ a recording unit configured to record, in response to the instruction, the encoded image signal, ~~which has been~~ generated by said encoding unit ~~means~~, on a recording medium; [[and]]

a communications unit configured to communicate the encoded image signal generated by said encoding unit to an external device while the signal is in an encoded state,

wherein the encoded image signal is transmitted to the external device while the encoded image signal is not recorded; and

~~control means for controlling~~ a controller configured to control, upon detection of the instruction and while the encoded image signal is transmitted to the external device, said recording unit means in accordance with a command to start recording of the moving picture signal so as to start recording the encoded image signal from the leading end of a picture group that contains a frame, which corresponds to the instruction record-start command, in the moving picture signal that has been output from said imaging means.

2. (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording [[means]] unit has a memory for storing the equivalent of one picture group of the moving picture signal generated by said encoding unit [[means]].

3. (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~control means~~ controller further controls said recording [[means]] unit so as to record identification information, which indicates the frame corresponding to the ~~record-start command~~ instruction, in the picture group at the portion ~~thereof~~ where recording starts.

4. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein said ~~control means~~ controller controls said encoding unit [[means]] and said recording unit [[means]]

~~to start recording by said recording unit in such a manner that even if the frame corresponding to the record-start command instruction is an interframe-encoded picture, recording by said recording means will be started without [[this]] the frame corresponding to the instruction being encoded as an intraframe-encoded picture.~~

7. - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the leading frame of each picture group is the intraframe-encoded picture.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended): A recording apparatus comprising:

input unit configured to input ~~means for inputting imaging means~~ a moving picture signal;

an encoding unit configured to encode ~~means for encoding~~ the moving picture signal, ~~which has been~~ input by said input unit ~~[[means]]~~, using intraframe encoding and interframe encoding, and to generate ~~generating~~ an encoded image signal comprising a plurality of picture groups each comprising n (where n represents an integer equal to or greater than 2) frames of an image signal including intraframe-encoded pictures obtained by the intraframe encoding and interframe-encoded pictures obtained by the interframe encoding;

~~instruction means for allowing a user to instruct to~~ a control panel configured to receive an instruction from a user to start a recording of the encoded image[[s]] signal;

~~a recording unit configured to record means for recording, in response to the instruction,~~ the encoded image signal, ~~which has been generated by said encoding unit~~ [[means]], on a recording medium;

~~a communication unit configured to communicate transmitting means for transmitting~~ the encoded image signal, ~~which has been generated by said encoding unit~~ [[means]], to an external device while the signal is in [[the]] an encoded state, wherein the encoded image signal is transmitted to the external device while the encoded image signal is not recorded; and

~~a controller configured to control means for controlling, upon detection of the instruction and while the encoded image signal is transmitted to the external device,~~ said recording unit means, in accordance with a command to start recording of the moving picture signal ~~during transmission of the encoded image signal by said transmitting means,~~ so as to start recording the encoded image signal from the leading end of a picture group that contains a frame, which corresponds to the instruction ~~record-start command, in the moving picture signal that has been output from said imaging means.~~

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended): A recording method comprising:

an input step of inputting a moving picture signal;

an encoding step of encoding the input moving picture signal using intraframe encoding and interframe encoding, and generating an encoded image signal comprising a plurality of picture groups each comprising n (where n represents an integer equal to or greater than 2) frames of an image signal including intraframe-encoded pictures obtained by the intraframe encoding and interframe-encoded pictures obtained by the interframe encoding;

an instruction step of instructing a start of a recording of the encoded images signal;

a recording step of recording, in response to the instructing, the encoded image signal on a recording medium;

a transmitting step of transmitting the encoded image signal to an external device while the signal is in ~~[[the]]~~ an encoded state, wherein the encoded image signal is transmitted to the external device while the encoded image signal is not recorded; and

a control step of controlling, upon detection of the instruction during while the encoded image signal is being transmitted to the external device, said recording step, ~~in accordance with a command to start recording of the moving picture signal during transmission of the encoded image signal by said transmitting step, so as to start recording~~ the encoded image signal from the leading end of a picture group that contains a frame, which corresponds to the instruction record-start command, ~~in the input moving picture signal.~~

14. - 19. (Canceled)